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SECRETARY'S STAFF MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1973, 3:15 P.M.

PRESENT

The Secretary of State: HENRY A. KISSINGER

KENNETH RUSH
CURTIS TARR
JACK B. KUBISCH
WILLIAM J. CASEY
JOSEPH J. SISCO
ARTHUR W. HUMMEL, JR.
DAVID D. NEWSOM
GEORGE S. SPRINGSTEEN
WINSTON LORD
ROBERT J. McCLOSKEY
THOMAS R. PICKERING
LAWRENCE S. EAGLEBURGER

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[Omitted here are portions of the discussion unrelated to Uganda.]

MR. NEWSOM:

Finally, we have a combination of the sublime and the ridiculous in Africa in General Amin's latest declaration. At his UN Day speech, after finishing his speech, the General picked up another piece of paper and declared that "At nine a.m. this morning, East Africa Time, which is six a.m. Greenwich Time, I had an inspiration from God." The inspiration was that there ought to be a cease-fire in the Middle East.

But more seriously, this illustrates --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: That's how Rush conducts his staff meetings.

MR. RUSH: By inspiration.

MR. NEWSOM: We feel increasingly that this man is totally unbalanced and poses a threat to our citizens in Uganda.

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We have now reduced our Embassy to fourteen people, which is a hard core of the necessary officers for an Embassy in that country. However, we do now feel that there is really no purpose to be served by keeping our people there, and we have reached the conclusion in AF that we should get our people out -- not break off diplomatic relations, but close the Embassy, leave it to them as to whether they keep their Embassy in Washington open. But the last thing that General Amin did was to announce that any American who did not have an identity card would be arrested.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes, I saw that.

MR. NEWSOM: Unless you have other feelings on this, Mr. Secretary, I think we will move in that direction.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I have no other feelings.

[Omitted here are portions of the discussion unrelated to Uganda.]

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